

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

DHA-05 EB-08 CU-04 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /133 W

-----089963 141003Z /23R

P R 140935Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7177

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2310

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, AG

SUBJ: BILATERALS AT UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 215738(NOTAL), B) ALGIERS 2267(NOTAL)

1. IN EVENT BOUTEFLIKA IS IN NEW YORK AT SAME TIME AS SECRETARY  
-- AND WE CONSIDER THIS UNLIKELY GIVEN ABERKANE'S REPORT THAT BOUTEFLIKA WILL MISS FIRST TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS OF SESSION (ALGERS REFTEL) -- HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE MORE ON HIS MIND THAN SAHARA AND PERHAPS OTHER AFRICAN CONFLICTS AND MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS STATE OF PLAY ON BOUMEDIENE'S VISIT TO U.S.

2. ALTHOUGH ABERKANE AND MFA'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HADJ ABDELKADER AZOUT (WHO IS LEAVING SHORTLY FOR NEW YORK) TOLD EMBOFF YESTERDAY THAT GOA EXPECTED AFRICAN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING HORN, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SAHARA, TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS AT UN, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOA WILL NOT TAKE LEADING ROLE EXCEPT ON SAHARA, AND WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT BOUTEFLIKA WOULD  
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DO MUCH TALKING ON NON-SAHARAN ISSUES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, TO FILL HIM IN ON ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA.

3. INTEREST IN SAHARA WILL DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF ANY MEETING WITH SECRETARY. POLISARIO SEEMS TO BE HOLDING ITS OWN MILITARILY AND MAKING SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GAINS, PARTICULARLY IN SPAIN, AND CONTINUATION OF THESE TRENDS MAY INDUCE GOA TO DOWN-

PLAY SAHARA AT UNGA AND IN ANY BILATERALS BOUTEFLIKA MAY HAVE. ON OTHER HAND, GOA'S COMMITMENT TO DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORA MAY BRING IT TO RAISE ISSUE AT UN IN SOME FORM, ESPECIALLY IF, AS ABERKANE AND AZOUT AGREED IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, OUA'S SPECIAL SUMMIT IS PUT OFF INDEFINITELY AS RESULT OF ZAMBIA'S INABILITY TO HOST IT. IN CONTEXT OF BILATERALS, RECENT ALGERIAN MEDIA EFFORT TO RELATE SAHARA TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COULD WELL PROVE TO BE BOUTEFLIKA'IMF HANDLE ON ISSUE IN EVENT GOA DECIDED TO RAISE IT. CIF RT WERE RAISED, SECRETARY MIGHT WCSH TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY IN LOW KEY MANNER TO EXPRESS U.S. SUPPORT OF UNHCR PRESENCE IN TINDOUF.

4. ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FRONT, BOUTEFLIKA WOULD FIND LITTLE TO SAY. GOA'S MAIN COMMERCIAL PREOCCUPATION -- LNG CONTRACT APPROVALS -- IS DORMANT PENDING FPC DECISIONS PROMISED BY END OF YEAR, AND WE DOUBT BOUTEFLIKA WOULD MAKE MORE THAN PASSING REFERENCE TO THEM. PROSPECTS FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE MIGHT COME UP, AND WE WOULD WANT TO REITERATE U.S. SUPPORT FOR ITS CONTINUATION.

5. IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FIELD, GOA HAS NOW APPROVED FINAL TEXT OF ALGERIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL ACCORD, AND WE ARE STUDYING TIME AND PLACE OF SIGNATURE. SECRETARY MAY WISH TO EXPRESS USG'S APPRECIATION OF GOA COOPERATION IN RAPID NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT, FIRST WITH ALGERIA SINCE 1966.

5. IN SHORT, ALGERIAN DIPLOMACY IS QUIESCENT EXCEPT OVER SAHARA,  
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AND ALGERIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE RELATIVELY WARM. SUCH BEING THE CASE, SIGNIFICANCE OF VANCE-BOUTEFLIKA MEETING WOULD LIE MORE IN FORM, I.E. IN CONTINUATION OF HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, THAN IN SUBSTANCE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES IN CONTENTION.

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## Message Attributes

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